

# One-Stop Shopping for Information Tools Coming to Your Computer!

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**T**he Air Force Portal—MY.AF—is undergoing tests and procurement, but if all goes according to AF/SC plans it should be coming to your computer sometime next year. What is the Air Force Portal? It is software that is intended to consolidate and simplify access to the information resources and applications you need to do your job—sort of a customizable home page unique to you. It is somewhat similar to commercial portals such as MyAOL and MyYahoo except the focus is on providing access to resources more focused on your Air Force job. It gives you the freedom to create a virtual desktop just as you arrange your physical workspace to your specific needs and desires. One of the purposes of the portal is it will eventually serve as a single sign-on point for all of your Air Force applications software which now individually require a separate user ID and password. It won't be available right away, but that is the long term goal.

One of the resources that will be part of the initial default page is MyMoney. This is a customer focused web site which brings together links to military and civilian pay as well as useful travel and personal finance resources. It is intended to provide the customer easy access to Electronic/Member Self Service (E/MSS) for pay transactions as well as easy access to information such as pay tables, retirement calculators, etc. Travelers will be able to get phone numbers for lodging reservations, find government air fares, and even check the transactions on their government travel card from the travel page. The personal finance page has personal budgeting tips, loan information, and useful consumer links. The overall goal is when an Air Force military member or employee think of anything to do with their money they will look for it here. We believe that if we deliver easy to use financial information and the ability to perform routine personal transactions directly to the customer we keep them at their job and out of our pay service lobbies. This will be a win-win for both the customer and our often over taxed customer service personnel giving them more time to deal with more complicated tasks. To do that we need your help to promote and inform our customers about the help available on the web. While this is included in the portal set up we don't need to wait until the portal is fielded to use the pay service site. It can be accessed directly at <http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/affsc/> and can help you better serve your customers right now.

Our job in SAF/FMPC is comptroller support and in addition to helping you serve your customers, we want to help you with other tools to do your job. We plan to accomplish this two ways. First, we intend to assemble virtual Toolkits that will have a collection of information resources focused on financial management functions. We hope to be able to deliver them to you soon. The toolkits will be options you can place on your portal page. Both the toolkits and the customer resources are intended to be dynamic products that we will update and improve on a regular basis. We solicit your help and suggestions to provide you the best possible product. Second, we intend to create and deliver more ways to help you learn to do your job better. We are making a concerted effort to provide quality distance learning courses over the web. The next course coming out is a new Resource Advisors Course. With almost half of those engaged in Financial Management now working outside of FM organizations we believe this is the group that can benefit the most. Resource Advisors often work alone away from other workers with similar expertise. Increasing decentralization of tasks requires they be well trained now more than ever. In addition, even though they may not work for the installation comptroller, the comptroller is now responsible to make sure they are trained per the AF/CV directive issued earlier this year. Eventually we intend to have a wide selection of interesting and effective courses at your fingertips. We intend for these courses to aid new people, update our existing workforce, and make it easier for all to meet continuing professional development goals. We are working harder to help you work smarter and better meet the needs of both our workforce and our customers.